

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023**

**H**

**1**

**HOUSE BILL 538**

Short Title: Isothermal Community College Capital Funds. (Public)

---

Sponsors: Representative Johnson.

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

---

Referred to: Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

---

April 3, 2023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO RUTHERFORD COUNTY FOR THE  
3 CONSTRUCTION OF A HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING AT ISOTHERMAL  
4 COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

5       Whereas, a new health sciences building on the main campus of Isothermal  
6 Community College, located in Spindale, currently estimated as a \$30 million project in today's  
7 market based on initial planning, is designed to specifically address critical needs in the local and  
8 regional workforce; and

9       Whereas, this facility will provide future-focused space for Isothermal to ensure  
10 direct, hands-on preparation for career entry and advancement in healthcare and emergency  
11 services fields that are currently experiencing serious personnel shortages in Rutherford and Polk  
12 Counties and across western North Carolina. The facility will support existing and projected  
13 programming to provide increased capacity to prepare registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical  
14 nurses (LPNs), certified nursing assistants (CNAs), emergency medical technicians (EMTs),  
15 paramedics, phlebotomists, geriatric and homecare specialists, virtual healthcare specialists,  
16 dental assistants, dental hygienists, and other allied health specialists; and

17       Whereas, the planned 62,540 sq. ft., three-story building will allow the college to  
18 integrate state of the art anatomy, chemistry, and related labs that support healthcare education  
19 and training, create high-tech simulation classrooms, and return to campus its nursing programs,  
20 which are currently housed in a repurposed, 1950s-era elementary school in Rutherfordton that  
21 is in need of extensive renovations and repairs estimated at a cost of greater than \$4 million; and

22       Whereas, in January 2023, the Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees  
23 approved a resolution in support of moving forward with the building development process and  
24 directing the college's president to begin to seek funding sources. And, in March, the Rutherford  
25 County Board of Commissioners and the Polk County Board of Commissioners unanimously  
26 approved a resolution in support of the project. The Rutherford County Board has indicated it  
27 will assume the full cost of maintenance and physical support of the building once completed;

28 Now, therefore,

29 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

30       **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund  
31 to Rutherford County the sum of thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for  
32 the 2023-2024 fiscal year to be used for a new health sciences building on the campus of  
33 Isothermal Community College.

34       **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023.

